

National Conference

The Conference will begin on Friday, August 31, and close on Wednesday, Sept. 5. The program will be published next week, and tho a little late will yet give six weeks for preparation. It is hoped that pastors and congregations thru-out the brotherhood will begin arrangements early for a large representation at the coming Conference. If pastors desire a short vacation they can do no better than to go to Winona during the time of the Conference; if they desire to spend several weeks, they will find Winona a very pleasant as well as profitable place.

The Transplanting

You went into a vegetable garden, and you saw the gardener taking plants out of a narrow strip of ground and transplanting them into a larger field. And if you patiently watched the result you soon noted the larger growth, and the development of elements of value and usefulness in that transplanted plant. It is thus that God is dealing with us, in minor ways while we are yet in the world, but in the larger and nobler sense when he takes us hence. It is the transplanting from the narrow to the larger field, where we may grow unhindered into all beauty and grace. The heavens and the eternities are that larger field. Let us not fear the transplanting, tho it may shock and pain every natural sense, but joyfully await and expect it.

Paying Church Debts

There are many methods of raising money to pay the preacher and to liquidate church debts, and there may be more than one right method, but the plan adopted by a congregation in Braddock, Pa., is certainly not one to be approved of by the Christian church in general, for we can not conceive of such a method having the approval of the Master. An Annual Tea Party is announced to be held in the Opera House on a certain Wednesday evening. In addition to the supper which will be served from 5 to 8 o'clock, the other attractions will be dancing, vocal and instrumental music, bowling and shooting. I is reported that with these Annual Tea Parties and other entertainments, the congregation has been enabled to pay the preacher, liquidate a large church debt, and make many donations to charitable institutions. What a spectacle it must be to the intelligences of heaven to look down upon dancing, bowling and shooting, in the name of Christ and for the purpose of carrying on the Master's work on earth. What influence can such a congregation have upon the lives of the young people who have a right to look to these leaders of large churches for wholesome example? It is to be regretted that a people who claim to be the followers of the

meek and the lowly and self-sacrificing Jesus should resort to such methods of raising money, defeating the very object which Christian people should have in view when they build churches, pay preachers and support charitable institutions. If these things were done by a people who do not profess Christianity, but little harm could come from them, but as it is the cause of the blessed Master is greatly hindered, and never helped, by every dance and kindred amusement inaugurated by professing Christian people as source of revenue with which to meet its obligations. A congregation can afford to have its property mortgaged and the pastor can afford to lose his salary, but neither can afford to resort to unrighteous and worldly methods to raise money for the Lord. Let the world have its way if it will, but let the church of the living God keep aloof from the ways of the world in questionable methods of money getting as well as in all other things.

Silent Building

The temple was built silently. Not a sound of hammer or ax was heard while the sacred building was being erected. So are our characters built. All good, strong characters are built silently. Our thoughts and feelings and choices and affections are the blocks quietly wrought into the temple for God. The strongest, truest, most beautiful characters are built as the temple was built. The greatest and mightiest forces in nature operate without noise. So in the spiritual, the great moral influences are going on quietly. No one hears the ministry of angels, nor the workings of the Holy Spirit, yet they are moving the moral world and accomplishing wonders. Jesus himself was a quiet worker, yet a great worker. The Christian who today makes the greatest impression upon the world is that one who makes the least noise.

China

Mighty events are taking place in the oldest and most populous empire in the world. We cannot be unconcerned toward a nation that sums up one third of the population of the globe, a nation also that has a continuous history almost as old as the world. For a thousand years past it has settled down into a stagnant conservatism, idolatrous, sensual, materialistic, a seething den of all diabolism, and it is not therefore a matter of surprise that a vast reaction has set in against the foreign civilization and foreign religion which has so persistently sought a foothold in the empire. A bloody revolution is now raging against all foreigners and foreign influences. Wherever they are found massacre of the most savage and horrible character ensues. The ministers of all the civilized nations, their wives and children have been heaped

together in one vast charnel house in the capital city. It is the crime of the century. The whole world shudders at the awful recital. The whole world is rushing armies to the revenge. That a dreadful revenge will be exacted no one doubts, and the next few months will witness scenes of horror scarcely equaled in the history of the world. It is strange that the wise ones have not foreseen this tremendous upheaval. It is the age-old struggle between the old and the new, between darkness and light, between stagnation and progression. We are amazed at the violence of the outbreak, because we fail to comprehend the vast scale upon which this battle of civilization is being fought. Nearly all the vast resources and indomitable energy of the western civilization have been concentrated upon China. On the one hand are the thousands of missionaries of the western religion. On the other hand the fleets and treaties and armies of western commerce. What other result could be expected but that these agencies would stir up sooner or later the most awful social and political ferment in the history of the nations. It is a gigantic convulsion, shaking the whole world. There can be but one sequel. The west will win over the east. The vigor and virtue of our civilization is irresistible. China will have a baptism of blood, but out of it will arise a new era for the oldest of the nations, and the Christians who are now being slaughtered will be written among the martyrs of the world's redemption.

The Sunday-School Teacher's Work

Dr. McLaren spoke some searching words to the Manchester (England) Sunday-school Union not long ago: "We have teachers who consider they have done their duty when they have read some goody-goody little story book to the children, or who are content to have a chapter read round, verse after verse, and who then shut up the book. We want to get rid of all that. We would like all Sunday-school teachers to feel that careful preparation is essential to success in their work. 'The gods give everything to labor,' said an old Latin proverb; and it is true of Sunday-school teaching as of other things, that what costs the giver nothing is just worth what it costs."

Everlasting Remembrance

Do you wish to achieve a really great thing in the world, and thereby rescue your name and memory from the deep oblivion which awaits the great majority of men! The possibility is within your reach. It is not reserved exclusively for those who possess great genius, for the mighty, the magnificently successful man. Yours may be the satisfaction, the joy of an immemorial destiny. Subdue yourself, and you are a hero. By